

Date:10/05/93
Page:1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : SSCIA
RECORD NUMBER : 157-10002-10165

RECORDS SERIES :
TRANSCRIPT

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : R-696

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : SSCIA
FROM :
TO :

TITLE :
TESTIMONY OF DAVID ATLEE PHILLIPS

DATE : 07/31/75
PAGES : 178

SUBJECTS :

CIA
CUBA
CASTRO
LANSKY, MEYER
BAY OF PIGS
ASSASSINATION
TRAFFICANTE, SANTOS
RUBY, JACK
CHILE
ALLENDE
OPERATION MONGOOSE

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : T
RESTRICTIONS : REFERRED
CURRENT STATUS : P
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/30/93

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :

Box 256
Folder 14

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

TOP SECRET

10

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Phillips. I did not.

2 Mr. Schwarz. Did you know Jack Ruby?

3 Mr. Phillips. No, I did not.

4 Mr. Schwarz. Do you know him under the name of Ruben-
5 stein?

6 Mr. Phillips. I did not.

7 Mr. Schwarz. What did you do between your work in Cuba
8 and the Chile matter which you were going to spend most of your
9 time on?

10 Mr. Phillips. After the Bay of Pigs business I went to
11 Mexico in late in 1961, and remained in Mexico until the very
12 early part of 1965, when I was assigned to the Dominican
13 Republic as Chief of Station.

14 Mr. Schwarz. And then --

15 Mr. Phillips. I stayed in the Dominican Republic until
16 the summer of 1967.

17 And after that I returned to Washington and became
18 the Chief of Cuban Operations through 1969.

19 In 1970 I went to Rio de Janeiro as Station Chief. And
20 in 1971, I suffered the traumatic shock of being moved to
21 Brasilia from Rio de Janeiro.

22 In 1972 I went to Venezuela as the Chief of Station.
23 And in the summer of 1973 I was asked to return as Chief of
24 the then Western Hemisphere Division.

25 Mr. Schwarz. And is that the position you held until

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

14

1 or the other which would enable you to form a judgment as
2 to his attitude toward either the subject of assassination or
3 the question as to what kind of an explicit order would be
4 necessary in order to justify Agency actions to actually
5 assassinate some one.

6 Mr. Phillips. No, because I never heard Mr. Helms even
7 get that close to the edge of such talk about such and such an
8 option or possibility, I never heard him talk that way.

9 Mr. Schwarz. Did you ever hear anybody in the Agency
10 talk that way?

11 Mr. Phillips. Under traumatic conditions I have heard
12 human beings maybe with a few drinks or something like that
13 saying, my God, we would be better off if so and so were
14 bumped off or something.

15 But I have never heard two officers sit down and
16 seriously talk about such an option. And if anyone has ever
17 said that, it is the same way some people might get out of line
18 and say almost anything.

19 Mr. Schwarz. Did you ever hear, in connection with
20 the Chile operation, that certain Chilean officers, specifi-
21 cally a Major Marshall, [REDACTED] that they intended
22 to assassinate Allende?

23 Mr. Phillips. It was five years ago. But as I recall,
24 Major Marshall said a number of things. He was what I think
25 of as a wild man. I seem to recall something about, yes, a

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

30

1 Mr. Schwarz. And you offered through Colonel Wimert,
2 whom we will come to in a moment, \$50,000 if they could
3 accomplish it, didn't you?

4 Mr. Phillips. I think that was the correct sum, yes.

5 Mr. Schwarz. And you gave them prior to their attempt
6 on the 19th of October some tear gas and some gas masks to
7 help accomplish the kidnapping?

8 Mr. Phillips. That is true.

9 Mr. Schwarz. And subsequently you provided to the Val-
10 enzuela group some machine guns, didn't you?

11 Mr. Phillips. That is ture.

12 Mr. Schwarz. And those were going to be used in a
13 kidnapping effort by the Valenzuela group, and you knew that,
14 didn't you?

15 Mr. Phillips. I recall that they were going to be
16 used by the group, and that kidnapping was a part of their
17 plans. I can't recall that they said they needed them spe-
18 cifically for the kidnapping. I do recall that the reason was --
19 the automatic reaction from Latin America is, why do people
20 need arms when they have got arms everywhere all over Latin
21 America.

22 And they said something about, their own arms could be
23 identified, and they needed some that couldn't be identified.
24 I don't recall if it was specifically mentioned that it was
25 just for that. It was certainly understood that they might

TOP SECRET

1 Consequently, I personally made this proposal, that we
2 establish what I called a false flag base of people that would
3 go from outside, and should there be any sort of flap, the
4 chances of linking it to the U.S. Government would be much
5 less, because they would appear to be from another nationality.

6 Mr. Schwarz. I would like to read to you a cable -- is
7 this cable of 27 September in the Senator's book? I know that
8 he asked for it after I came over.

9 Mr. Treverton. It is not.

10 Mr. Schwarz. I am going to read from a cable which
11 unfortunately is not in your book, but the key part is
12 relatively simple.

13 This is a cable, Mr. Phillips, dated September 27, 1970,
14 and it is signed by yourself and Mr. Broe. And it is sent to
15 the Station in Chile, and it contains the following about the
16 purposes of setting up the false flag office --

17 Mr. Phillips. We call it a base.

18 Mr. Schwarz. False flag bases: "Each member of base
19 will enter and leave Chile with fals documents and operate as
20 a representative of his country rather than as anAmerican".

21 That is right, isn't it?

22 Mr. Phillips. That is true.

23 Mr. Schwarz. Continue:

24 "Having at least one key and one key
25 would be vital, and we have candidates."

1 And you did that.

2 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

3 Mr. Schwarz. And then it goes on as follows: "These
4 officers will perform the delicate shows with great flap
5 potential which cannot be done by Station personnel or any
6 Chilean."

7 That is right, isn't it?

8 Mr. Phillips. That is true.

9 Mr. Schwarz. And by flap potential you meant exposure?

10 Mr. Phillips. Contacting screwballs such as Marshall,
11 that sort of thing.

12 Mr. Schwarz. But generally pursuing the Track II
13 activities?

14 Mr. Phillips. That is right.

15 Mr. Schwarz. Continuing: "An example. We have can-
16 didates who can successfully pose as [] intelligence
17 officers." You did that, didn't you?

18 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

19 Mr. Schwarz. And this goes on: "If he approached, funded
20 and ran a Chilean General, any flap would be a []

21 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

22 Mr. Schwarz. So the scheme was that not only would
23 the U.S. not be blamed, but other countries like [] would
24 be blamed if something went wrong.

25 Mr. Phillips. Yes, this is particularly sensitive to me,

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] However, that was it. It was a
3 devious move. It was the final result -- the idea being that
4 if such a flap did occur, someone would think it was someone
5 other than the U.S. The idea of false flag operations is
6 not a new one. The idea I had of going to someone and saying,
7 why don't you be a spy for us, I don't work for the Soviets,
8 is not true.

9 But this is sort of new, the fact that action agents
10 should pose as others. And yes, it is devious, but that
11 was the idea.

12 Senator Hart of Colorado. Mr. Phillips, what were
13 their instructions if they were to be caught? Were they to go
14 to their death swearing they were [REDACTED] or whatever?

15 Mr. Phillips. I don't think it was quite that dramatic,
16 Senator. They came to Washington before they went down. And
17 I briefed them, and I think what I said to them was, this
18 is going to be a tough and sensitive one, and you don't have
19 to go if you don't want to, because you could get in real trouble.

20 And if you get in trouble, I am not sure we can help
21 you.

22 So, they shrugged their shoulders and went.

23 Mr. Schwarz. Did you tell the [REDACTED] that you were
24 sending someone down to pose as a [REDACTED] and his instruc-
25 tions were that if he were caught he was to continue to pose

1 as [] were approached?

2 Mr. Phillips. It never occurred to us in our wildest
3 dreams to do that.

4 Mr. Schwarz. I suppose the relationships between con-
5 tinuing intelligence services were things that were
6 very important to preserve, and that we had very close and
7 delicate relationships with the other intelligence services.

8 Mr. Phillips. We do. And if there had been such a
9 man [] would be quite unhappy with us. But I
10 thought that was better than letting the world know that was
11 a U.S. Citizen down there.

12 Mr. Schwarz. You go on in the cable of September 27
13 to say this:

14 "Headquarters believes this false flag was manned by
15 officers who have repeatedly proved their ability to operate
16 and recruit under false colors, will give Station great flexi-
17 bility in handling delicate and fast-moving situations secure-
18 ly."

19 So, the use of false flag persons, at least judging
20 from this cable, is something []

21 Mr. Phillips. Yes, and by all intelligence services --
22 not all, but all major intelligence services. If you are living
23 overseas and a man comes up to you and says, hey, I see you
24 are a Marxist, and a man comes up and says, I am from Havana
25 and we would like you to work with the Cuban intelligence

TOP SECRET

48

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 service, he might not be from Havana, he might be from the
2 Soviets, from us, or ~~from the Brazilians.~~

3 So, it is not an unusual practice.

4 Mr. Schwarz. Incidentally, you just let drop one thing
5 in your testimony a moment ago. You said that in your 25-year
6 involvement with intelligence matters you had been bothered
7 by your activities on only two occasions, one of which was
8 Chile.

9 And then you said what the other one was. What was that?

10 Mr. Phillips. I was in Washington attending the Chiefs
11 of Station course, which is a training course for people who
12 are going out on their first assignment as Chief of Station.

13 When President Johnson decided to send 22,000 Marines
14 to the Dominican Republic, it occurred to me that in order to
15 protect and evacuate American citizens, that that job might
16 have been done with 400 Marines. I was scheduled to go there

17 ~~as the Chief of Station.~~ And I just wasn't sure that I
18 wanted to be associated with something like that. But I de-
19 cided, well, I suppose President Johnson knows what he is
20 doing, I will go -- I am going to go along. So, I did go
21 along.

22 Senator Schweiker. One question on your differentiation
23 between where you drew a personal commitment line on assassin-
24 ations, but not overthrow. I have trouble quite understanding
25 it, because as I understand Chile, the plot was to overthrow

TOP SECRET

1 Mr. Phillips. There is no question that I could under-
2 stand why anyone concerned with world affairs, looking at
3 Chile and what was happening there, would be concerned.

4 Salvadore Allende made his first statement saying that
5 he was a Socialist and wanted to change the order some 32
6 years before he was elected.

7 Over the years he made it quite clear that he was an ar-
8 dent socialist. Before this decision was made I believe that
9 we had a visit from a man who had the code name of
10 was a Cuban intelligence officer. The Cubans were moving in
11 rapidly. The influence was great. I think that they saw a lot
12 at stake, another Cuba in Latin America type of thing, the
13 same thing perhaps that motivated President Johnson to send
14 22,000 rather than 400.

15 So, I can understand why they thought this was going,
16 in the long strategic sense, in the long range against our
17 interests. But that is an assumption.

18 It is true that Allende very definitely made it clear
19 that he wanted to turn Chile into a Marxist state. The differ-
20 ence was that Allende refused to take Fidel Castro's advice
21 and use violence. As I understand it, Fidel Castro went to
22 Chile and said, if you want your revolution to last you are
23 going to have to use violence.

24 I found it interesting to read in this morning's paper
25 where someone from Portugal came back from Cuba and said,

1 activities?

2 Mr. Phillips. No, sir. I was the Station Chief in
3 Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and was called back in 1970 for
4 six or seven weeks for what we are referring to as Track II.

5 Senator Mondale. Now, in that position you familiarized
6 yourself with the Chilean government, Allende and so on,
7 and tried to become as expert as you could in the political
8 forces and so on?

9 Mr. Phillips. Yes. And in addition to that, Senator,
10 one of the reasons I was called back was that I had lived
11 for many years in Chile, so I knew something about it.

12 Senator Mondale. And it is your judgment as I think I
13 just heard, that although Allende was a Marxist, and espoused
14 Marxism, he also said he wanted to achieve this through the
15 democratic process, and although there was some rough stuff
16 on the press, and so on, essentially that was the course he
17 was pursuing, is that correct?

18 Mr. Phillips. I don't recall that he said it, but
19 he indeed acted that way.

20 Senator Mondale. But in fact the course he was pur-
21 suing was an attempt to achieve the Marxist philosophy with
22 the population support under constitutional system?

23 Mr. Phillips. Yes, essentially that is true, sir.

24 Senator Mondale. Thank you.

25 Mr. Schwarz. I would like to read to you in connection

TOP SECRET

65

1 assignment by the President and by the White House?

2 Mr. Phillips. Senator, it doesn't make any difference
3 today. On the contrary, since Watergate the people say, why
4 should we? Before Watergate it was another ball game.
5 The President was the Commander in Chief in every sense of the
6 word.

7 And you said, who am I, a GS-15 bureaucrat, to say that
8 we shouldn't do this? But that has changed since Watergate.

9 Senator Hart of Colorado. One other question.

10 I call your attention in our briefing books to what is
11 Tab C, a cable which has your name at the end of it dated 21
12 September 1970, page 3 of 7. Are you an author or co-author
13 of that cable?

14 Mr. Phillips. I believe I was the authenticating
15 officer, yes.

16 Senator Hart of Colorado. What does that mean?

17 Mr. Phillips. That meant that the signature on the
18 right of those cables is someone that is the authenticating
19 officer in a sense, here is a fellow that is supposed to know
20 the situation.

21 Senator Hart of Colorado. But who wrote it, I guess
22 is what I am after.

23 Mr. Phillips. I would guess that this cable was probably
24 written by Mr. Poinzio, and perhaps myself, perhaps it was
25 joint. But Mr. Poinzio wrote an awful lot of them. But by

TOP SECRET

1 putting my signature on the authenticating part I said I was
2 a part of it. And then, of course, the releasing officer is
3 the one that accepts the responsibility.

4 Senator Hart of Colorado. Page 3 of 7 which has
5 the paragraph identified as the paragraph F contains the follow-
6 ing sentence or part of a sentence: You suggest sending
7 us cables outlining objectives and course of events, et
8 cetera, and he said, always conditioned by the fact that we have
9 to keep our feet in the mud of practicality, and our eyes
10 on the stars.

11 What does that mean in Agency talk?

12 Mr. Phillips. Senator, I want to assure you with real
13 seriousness that I am not the author of that phrase.

14 Senator Hart of Colorado. It must have caught your eye,
15 however.

16 Mr. Phillips. It did catch my eye. If this was indeed
17 a joint venture, I can promise that that was **Dino Poinzio's**
18 contribution, and if you ever meet him you will understand
19 why. He was addicted to picturesque speech. And looking
20 back, all I can say is that it probably went out at four
21 o'clock in the morning, and we were very tired, and I just
22 didn't want to argue about that phrase, and I let it go. I
23 am not sure what it means even now.

24 SENator Hart of Colorado. Neither am I. But it seems
25 to describe a lot of what we have heard around here for the

TOP SECRET

76

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Now, I read that as Helms' position being that the
2 assassination of Schneider was something which presented the
3 opportunity for the very thing that the U.S. wished to have
4 done.

5 Do you agree with me?

6 Mr. Phillips. No, I can't agree with you on that. I am
7 not sure about the suggestion from the language. But I will
8 tell you the immediate reaction in our little task force when
9 the word came that Schneider was dead, that is it, it is finished.
10 Knowing Chileans, the moment that that violence occurred,
11 Chileans, with the possible exception of a nut such as
12 Marshall, immediately said, this is it, that is enough. There
13 was still that tradition over the years. And I think that the
14 moment we heard of it and we discussed it we said, that is
15 it, there will be no more. In many countries in Latin America
16 that would have been the signal for further action, weakness,
17 and so forth. But in this case it was the end of the
18 business.

19 Mr. Schwarz. I want to run through with you the activi-
20 ties which were being undertaken with the Valenzuela group
21 and with the Viaux group. In the case of Viaux, was that one
22 of the assignments that the false flag officers had?

23 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

24 Mr. Schwarz. And in the case of Valenzuela, was that
25 one of the assignments that Colonel Wimer had?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

77

1 Mr. Phillips. [Wimert] Yes, I believe it was [Colonel]
2 [Wimert] that was in touch with that group.

3 Mr. Schwarz. And the two teams worked in tandem,
4 didn't they?

5 Mr. Phillips. Are you referring to Chilean teams?

6 Mr. Schwarz. No, the false flag team [and Colonel]

7 [Wimert]

8 Mr. Phillips. Only in the sense that there might have
9 been some central direction from the office or from headquar-
10 ters. I don't believe that anyone of the false flaggers had
11 the slightest idea that [Colonel Wimert] was working with us.
12 And I don't believe that [Colonel Wimert] -- I don't know that
13 [Colonel Wimert] knew about them.

14 So, no, they didn't work in tandem, except in sense of
15 direction from the Station.

16 Mr. Schwarz. Headquarters down there, and you in
17 Washington, were working with both the Valenzuela group and
18 the Viaux group?

19 Mr. Phillips. Yes, sir.

20 Senator Hart of Colorado. Are you in a chain here,
21 counsel?

22 Mr. Schwarz. I am in a chain, but it is easily interrup-
23 tible.

24 Senator Hart of Colorado. Mr. Phillips, did we
25 chronologically -- maybe the staff can answer that, I am just

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

92

1 Viaux group was really acting in order to carry out step one
2 of the Valenzuela group's plan?

3 Mr. Phillips. Yes, to address this point specifically.
4 Obviously when the guns were passed ~~through Colonel Wimert~~
5 and the death occurred so soon after, immediately we
6 thought they probably used those guns. It was then when we
7 read the press reports that General Schneider died from hand-
8 gun wounds. And that was the first time we thought we could
9 really be sure in our own mind that it wasn't directly
10 the Valenzuela group using those guns.

11 Mr. Schwarz. What about the gas masks that had
12 been furnished earlier? Wasn't there evidence that there
13 were gas masks in the care of the persons who attempted to
14 abduct General Schneider?

15 Mr. PHillips. I don't recall. There may very well have
16 been, but I am not real sure about that.

17 Mr. Schwarz. I am going to go to another area, which
18 is the relationship ~~with Colonel Wimert~~. If there are any
19 questions on the relationship between the two groups.

20 Senator Hart of Colorado. Concerning the October 19
21 attempts, under Tab 4 on page 7 of the longer memorandum
22 by Dianne LaVoy under October 18 there is reference to a cable
23 A66 dated October 19. And concerning the connection of
24 these various conspirators, it says: "Valenzuela meets with
25 ~~U.S. Army attache~~ and gives him a 15 point plan for coup to be

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

93

1 carried out on October 19. [redacted] who was head of the
2 [redacted] Carabineros, witting of the above plan, has promised to keep
3 the Carabineros away from the Schneier house to assure that the
4 abduction will not be interfered with. General Viaux is
5 knowledgeable of the above operation, but is not directly
6 involved."

7 What do you think "not directly involved" refers to?
8 Why not just not involved?

9 Mr. Phillips. I think that probably referred to what
10 I was saying before, that in these situations it is not very
11 unusual that there is not some talk that everybody has a cousin
12 that works with some group type of thing.

13 And I believe that it must refer to that.

14 Mr. Schwarz. Taking the actual cable, is the actual
15 cable in the Senator's books?

16 Mr. Inderfurther. No.

17 Mr. Schwarz. Let me read the full text of that para-
18 graph from the cable. It is a cable apparently dated 19
19 October on the subject of General Viaux:

20 "General Viaux, knowledgeable of above operation, but not
21 directly involved. He has been sent to Vina to stay with
22 prominent physician. Will be seen in public places during 19
23 and 20 October to demonstrate fact that above operation is
24 not his doing. Will be allowed to return to Santiago at end of
25 week."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

94

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Now, I can't read that language any way other than
2 meaning that the Valenzuela group and the Viaux group were in
3 close cooperation, that was part of the abduction plan, it
4 was agreed between the two that Viaux would appear -- would
5 be out of town so that he would not appear to be involved.
6 And you have to read that, do you not, as meaning that there
7 was a close cooperation on this effort between the two groups.

8 Mr. Phillips. Yes, I think you do have to read it that
9 way.

10 Miss Culbreth. Would you identify that paper more
11 than just the statement?

12 Mr. Phillips. Cable sent to headquarters A66.

13 Mr. Schwarz. No. A66, eyes only to --

14 Mr. Inderfurth. DCOS, which was ~~Booksher.~~

15 Mr. Treverton. It is Tab M, it is in the book.

16 Mr. Schwarz. I think we ought to mark that as an ex-
17 hibit.

18 (The document referred to was
19 marked Phillips Exhibit No. 2
20 for identification.)
21
22
23
24
25

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

101

1 As for the narrow part of your question, by all means
2 it is a bad way to do business.

3 Senator Schweiker. Go ahead.

4 Mr. Schwarz. Picking up on Senator Schweiker's line
5 of questioning, would you show the witness Tab A, the docu-
6 ment Tab A.

7 It is a memorandum for the record by Mr. Broe dated 17
8 September, and then that is crossed out and it says 16 Sep-
9 tember, "Subject, Genesis of Project".

10 Incidentally, what was the code name for this project?
11 Was it FU Belt?

12 Mr. Phillips. Beltway or FU Belt, one of the two.

13 Mr. Schwarz. Does FU stand for anything in particular?

14 Mr. Phillips. Chile. So it would be FU. The first two
15 letters there indicate a geographical area. So it would be a
16 lot of different ones, but that would mean Chile. FU Belt
17 means Chile. Belt means nothing.

18 Mr. Schwarz. Everybody keeps saying that so many of
19 these things mean nothing. Who is responsible for these
20 names?

21 Mr. Phillips. There is somebody who is supposed to have
22 a big list to make sure that they were not duplicated.
23 And I think sometimes there is a pixie-like quality that comes
24 out in those things.

25 Senator Schweiker. That is an understatement, to call

TOP SECRET

1 it pixie-like.

2 Mr. Phillips. But many times the cryptonums mean ab-
3 solutely nothing, they have no meaning at all.

4 Senator Schweiker. SRRIFLE, ROGUE ELEPHANT --

5 Mr. Phillips. I am sorry, sir.

6 Senator Schweiker. We have come across a few other good
7 ones.

8 Mr. Schwarz. I don't know if you have ever seen that
9 document, and it doesn't matter. But the end of paragraph 2
10 indicates that the instructions from the President concluded:

11 "The Agency is to carry out this mission without
12 coordination with the Department of State or Defense".

13 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

14 Mr. Schwarz. And that was your instruction?

15 Mr. Phillips. That is correct.

16 Mr. Schwarz. Now, in fact, of course, you did use in
17 Chile a man called Colonel Wimert.

18 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

19 Mr. Schwarz. And he was in the Defense Department?

20 Mr. Phillips. That is correct.

21 Mr. Schwarz. And he was assigned -- he was instructed
22 to take his instructions only from the CIA in Chile, is that
23 right?

24 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

25 Mr. Schwarz. And he was instructed indeed not to tell

TOP SECRET

103

1 his superior in Chile, the man who was in charge of the
2 defense attache system down there?

3 Mr. Phillips. That is true, sir.

4 Mr. Schwarz. Wimert was the man from the Army, and then
5 there was someone else in the Air Force, the Navy, and there
6 was a boss?

7 Mr. Phillips. That is right.

8 Mr. Schwarz. And Wimert was told not to tell that boss?

9 Mr. Phillips. I believe that is true, yes.

10 Mr. Schwarz. Now, how did it happen that Colonel Wimert
11 came to work for and under the direction of the CIA?

12 Mr. Phillips. I believe the explanation for that was
13 the fact that Colonel Wimert had been around Latin America,
14 spoke perfect Spanish, his hobby was riding horses, and he
15 developed really marvelous relationships with the military of
16 officers that he had contact with. And I think it was just
17 that someone recognized the fact that if we had been given the
18 task of getting a coup going using the military, why not take
19 advantage of the one man in Chile that they liked the most,
20 trusted the most, and saw the most? It was perfectly natural
21 for him to spend his weekends with these people.

22 Mr. Schwarz. And so he was a natural and helpful asset.
23 But how was it arranged that he would work for the CIA, and
24 lay that question against the instruction from President
25 Nixon that the Defense Department was not to know, how did

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

104

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 you accomplish it?

2 Mr. Phillips. I don't know. I have had my memory
3 refreshed by looking at some documents now, and I know
4 that someone came and gave me the piece of paper in this book
5 that has been signed by General Philpott. which was a message
6 to ~~Wimert~~ saying, cooperate with the CIA. What the process
7 was for getting that approval, or who went to see Philpott,
8 I wasn't involved with that, I just don't recall.

9 Mr. Schwarz. Did you ever see Philpott ?

10 Mr. Phillips. I never did.

11 Mr. Schwarz. Did you ever see --

12 Mr. Phillips. I may have seen Philpott in some large
13 meeting or something like that, but I don't recall any
14 meeting with any of the generals. I was relatively too junior
15 to have attended these meetings. This would have been Mr.
16 Broe, Mr. Karamessines, and so forth. And I would have been
17 left back in the shop, sort of, I think.

18 Mr. Schwarz. And did you ever see or talk to Bennett?

19 Mr. Phillips. Not to my recollection. I think not.

20 Mr. Schwarz. I asked you if you ever saw General Phil-
21 pott, or did you ever talk to General Philpott?

22 Mr. Phillips. I don't recall such a talk. During this
23 entire period, for instance, I never went outside of our build-
24 ing. I was there sort of in the shop. And other people would do
25 that sort of thing.

TOP SECRET

1 Mr. Schwarz. Is that the form in which you sent the
2 message which is contained in Exhibit 3 to Chile?

3 Mr. Phillips. It is.

4 Mr. Schwarz. Now, apparently Exhibit 4, which you
5 drafted initially, said that it was from General Bennett, and
6 then it was changed to say it was from General Philpott.

7 Did you make that change?

8 Mr. Phillips. That is my handwriting above that said
9 Philpott, and someone else's handwriting below that said
10 Bennett. I think the signature on the original document
11 was from Philpott. But that is my change there.

12 Mr. Schwarz. And is the change on the second page --
13 the sentence reads:

14 "Do not allow Colonel Wimer to retain copy of this
15 message", and then in handwriting it is asserted "Note that
16 General Bennett is out of the country".

17 Mr. Phillips. Yes, that is my handwriting.

18 Mr. Schwarz. Having seen that, and these changes, what
19 do you recall about the circumstances that led you to make
20 those changes?

21 Mr. Phillips. It is possible that this message is one
22 of the rare messages that sometimes occur, that you are handed
23 something that is written out, and there is no secretary,
24 and it is two o'clock in the morning or something like that.
25 On some occasions you will take a very rough draft and ask

TOP SECRET

108

1 the communicators to send that, and you will then later write
2 for the record, and have typed for the record the formal cable.
3 I am not sure about that.

4 Mr. Schwarz. You think what you sent used General Ben-
5 nett's name and not General Philpott's name?

6 Mr. Phillips. I don't recall. But I believe if that had
7 been the case that not only would the change have been made,
8 but there would have been some sort of note on the side or
9 something. So, I believe that the original must have said
10 Philpott. But I can't be absolutely positive.

11 Mr. Schwarz. But the original typed version on the
12 first page used Bennett's name, right?

13 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

14 Mr. Schwarz. Now, I am puzzled, because if you had
15 previously obtained the document which is Exhibit 3, the
16 "suggested message to be sent to Army attache from General
17 Bennett", and which is in fact signed with a name that
18 purports to be General Philpott's, if you had obtained that
19 before drafting the typed message, I take it you would have used
20 Philpott's name in the typed message and not Bennetts'.

21 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

22 Mr. Schwarz. So that suggests that you typed the typed
23 message before you obtained the document which is Exhibit 3
24 that has Mr. Philpott's signature?

25 Mr. Phillips. No, I would not have done that. I would

TOP SECRET

1 wasn't aware of this.

2 Mr. Schwarz. After that initial occasion involving
3 the use of Philpott's name in order to instruct **Wimert** to
4 work for the CIA, was anybody from the Defense Intelligence
5 Agency further brought into the operation which we have been
6 calling Track II?

7 Mr. Phillips. My answer to that until a few minutes
8 ago would have been, I don't recall that. I have seen a document
9 since then that indicates that someone else was talked to
10 later. If I knew that I had forgotten it, or perhaps never
11 knew it -- I must have known it if I saw the message. But
12 until I saw this thing, to refresh my memory I would have
13 said, I think that Philpott was the man.

14 Mr. Schwarz. Was the man, and was only contacted on
15 that one occasion? ✓

16 Mr. Phillips. As far as I know, that one occasion.
17 But I didn't necessarily know what was outside of my little
18 room with windows, and so there were other people doing other
19 things.

20 Mr. Schwarz. Let's then look at the other documents.
21 Would you mark Tab G as Exhibit 5.

22 (The document referred to was
23 marked Phillips Exhibit No. 5
24 for identification.)
25

1 Mr. Schwarz. And this is a cable releasing officer William
2 Broe, authenticating officer David A Phillips, dated Octo-
3 ber 14, 1970, from CIA headquarters to Santiago, CIA.

4 And it says:

5 "Please deliver the following message ('destroy immedi-
6 ately') to Colonel Wimer eyes only from Lieutenant General
7 Bennett. "

8 Now, on what basis did you authenticate that message
9 which purports to be to Colonel Wimer from Lieutenant General
10 Bennett?

11 Mr. Phillips. Obviously -- not obviously, but because
12 I presume in this case -- I am sure in this case once again
13 there was a document that was handed to me and I was told,
14 send this down. In order to make this point, I was in there,
15 and it was sort of a direct operational thing, and when I
16 authenticated them I did it because I knew what was going on.
17 If Bill Broe, my boss, came in and said, here is a document
18 that we want to send, or if Tom Karamessines said, I worked on
19 the assumption that they were passing on to me the authority
20 to authenticate, and I didn't necessarily turn to them and say,
21 hey --

22 Mr Schwarz. Prove that --

23 Mr. Phillips. Prove that you have been talking with
24 General Bennett -- I obviously didn't do that.

25 Mr. Schwarz. Then mark as Exhibit 6 an undated docu-

1 ment headed "Destroy immediately" from LTG Bennett to Colonel
2 Wimer. "Eyes only".

3 (The document referred to was
4 Marked Phillips Exhibit No. 6
5 for identification.)
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

TOP SECRET

114

1 Mr. Schwarz. Now, that purports to be from LTG Bennett
2 to Colonel Wimer, and has the text in it which you sent on
3 to Colonel Wimer.

4 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

5 Mr. Schwarz. And what is your best recollection as to
6 who handed you that document?

7 Mr. Phillips. I cannot say definitely who did that.
8 There were many occasions when Bill Broe would walk into the
9 office and say, here is something to send. There were others
10 which would come in a manila envelope with a yellow
11 forwarding slip on it. There are times, I am sure, when I
12 would go into Bill Broe's office, and he would say, by the
13 way, send this.

14 I simply cannot recall the circumstances in which some-
15 one handed me that and said, send it to Chile. And I was paying
16 less attention to those things, because I was in effect the
17 postman for people doing other things.

18 Mr. Schwarz. Do you have any recollection at all
19 about this document?

20 Mr. Phillips. No, I am afraid I don't.

21 Mr. Schwarz. What is your reading of the signature on
22 that document?

23 Mr. Phillips. Well, it certainly looks like the sig-
24 nature which was on the other document which was said to be
25 Philpott's. But I am not an authority on these things.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

119

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 military attache. And those instructions went down. Apparently
2 it would appear that there might be something here where they
3 are going to bring in more people, as is known to several per-
4 sons, it says down here.

5 And it may have been because there was an attempt there
6 not to say to these new people, by the way, we want to talk
7 to you about something we are doing that we have kind of
8 already done. That is the only thing I can come up with. I
9 can't give you a better explanation than that.

10 Mr. Schwarz. This you characterize also as a puzzling
11 and strange document?

12 Mr. Phillips. Yes. And I am sorry that I can't be
13 more helpful on this. But I was treating these -- these things
14 were coming through my mail shoot, and I was putting headings
15 on them. Even though I signed them and so forth, I wasn't
16 paying the attention to things that I did to my own job.

17 Mr. Schwarz. That is an explanation that deals with
18 some of the earlier documents. But here in the first place
19 you were both the releasing officer and the authenticating
20 officer.

21 And second, this is not simply taking some other message
22 and putting a heading on it, is it? This is a substantive
23 document purporting to explain a problem to your CIA Station
24 Chief in Santiago, right, do you agree with that?

25 Mr. Phillips. I do. And I agree that it is puzzling,

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

120

1 and there are some holes here. Perhaps I can be helpful when
2 you have further testimony on this to help me job my memory.
3 I can't remember the rationale for this.

4 Mr. Schwarz. Let's take some of the statements that
5 are in the telegram and deal with them specifically.

6 Paragraph 2: "There seems little doubt this will
7 confuse ~~Colonel Wimer~~".

8 It has confused all of us here, so I suppose it would
9 have confused him.

10 "Background for his information: both Generals Bennett
11 and Philpott have been briefed by Broe".

12 Who told you that?

13 Mr. PHillips. I don't know for sure, but I presume
14 this must have been Bill Broe.

15 Mr. Schwarz. Do you have any recollection of his telling
16 you that?

17 Mr. Phillips. I do not. But I don't think that I --
18 I don't see myself releasing that cable without being sure that
19 Broe knew what was going out in that cable. In other words,
20 that is hthe kind of cable that I wouldn't have released
21 just because someone else came in and said that sort of thing.
22 This cable I think must have originated either with a dis-
23 cussion with Broe that said, look, send the following word,
24 write up something like this, or perhaps some notes, and say,
25 do a cable from it, or just as possible -- and I can't read it

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

121

1 here -- is the fact that it was actually drafted by someone
2 else that was working in my shop, ~~Mr. Plonizio~~, or someone
3 else, that went in and talked to Broe. Maybe I was doing some-
4 thing else, and they came to me with a typed thing and said,
5 here, I cleared this with Broe, and so he signed both things.
6 So I really can't remember.

7 Mr. Schwarz. Under either assumption, either that Broe
8 spoke to you directly or that someone on your staff
9 spoke to Broe, you had Broe around at the time this cable goes
10 out?

11 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

12 Mr. Schwarz. Then why wouldn't he sign it?

13 Mr. Phillips. Here is one thing. At the time the cable
14 went out -- I can't remember well enough if it was late at
15 night.

16 Mr. Schwarz. Does the time up above indicate 11:59?

17 Mr. Phillips. Where do you see that?

18 Mr. Schwarz. In the upper lefthand corner. It has
19 a date 14 October 17, and right above that is 11:59 --

20 Mr. Phillips. Right.

21 Mr. Schwarz. -- in the customary place for the time.

22 Mr. Phillips. I don't see that on this copy.

23 The point I am trying to make is, if Mr. Broe were
24 leaving the office and we had gone through this exchange, and
25 he had done it with someone else in my office, he might well

TOP SECRET

1 and saying, look, we want you to go along with this and use
2 Colonel Wimert down there, he is really important to us, and
3 that sort of thing, and was perhaps slightly embarrassed
4 by the fact that they had been doing that before. That is the
5 only explanation I can give.

6 Mr. Schwarz. So you would assume that these new
7 interested parties and the several persons referred to in
8 the two sentences are persons who were in higher authority
9 than Bennett and Philpott?

10 Mr. Phillips. I assume that, but do not know. I just --
11 this thing was being so closely held, it just doesn't seem
12 logical to me that they would start going outside and down,
13 I thought that they would go outside and up. But I say, I
14 only assume that.

15 Mr. Schwarz. You have characterized Exhibit 7 as itself
16 being sort of puzzling. And the situation it deals with, as
17 you now describe it, is one that is kind of ticklish, isn't it?

18 Mr. Phillips. I understand.

19 Mr. Schwarz. The CIA had been using Wimert and knew
20 some people in higher authority than General Bennett, which
21 would mean very senior in the Defense Department, right?

22 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

23 Mr. Schwarz. Or outside the Defense Department, but
24 very senior persons. They apparently are expressing an in-
25 terest, and according to this telegram, or your reconstruction

1 of it, General Bennett and General Philpott feel that they are
2 embarrassed to refute the fact that they had already been doing
3 the work for the CIA ~~through Colonel Wimert.~~

4 Now, all those things were not ordinary garden variety
5 daily events, were they?

6 Mr. Phillips. They were not.

7 Mr. Schwarz. You don't remember this at all?

8 Mr. Phillips. No, and I didn't want to imply that it
9 was necessarily because General Philpott would have been
10 embarrassed, it could have been within CIA as well.

11 But this rather unusual step was made because of the
12 talents of the military men, to bring him into a program
13 that you weren't even talking with the State Department about.
14 And so that indeed was unusual to a great degree. And I am
15 really very sorry to appear to be so vague about these things
16 that I obviously had something to do with.

17 But my explanation is that I was doing a certain job,
18 and that other people were outside, and Mr. Karamessines would
19 be talking with Mr. Helms about something, and this, that and
20 the other, and I was on the day-by-day operation side, and when
21 someone would come in and say, we want something to go down
22 to Wimert, and it has something to do with General Philpott,
23 I didn't pay the kind of attention I would to it if it had
24 been one of our operations.

25 Mr. Schwarz. Go back up to the beginning at paragraph 2

TOP SECRET

129

1 there were it says, "There is no doubt that this will confuse
2 **Colonel Winert.** Background for his information".

3 Now, there are two ways in which those words "for his
4 information" can be read. One is that it is the genuine
5 background.

6 The other is that it is a story to be given **Winert** for
7 his information, which is the fact, if you know, and which way
8 do you read it if you do not know what the facts are?

9 Mr. Phillips. I assume that it is the true story, because
10 nowhere during this period did I encounter anything, nor do
11 I remember anything that I thought was devious to the extent
12 of falsehood in putting something down like that.

13 So, I assume that it is really for his background of
14 what happened.

15 Mr. Schwarz. And you don't remember from where you got
16 the information which you provided in this cable?

17 Mr. Phillips. I do not. Perhaps I can be more helpful
18 after you talk to others. But I simply do not.

19 Mr. Schwarz. The last paragraphs make the notation
20 "that we must advise General Bennett time when **Winert** shown"
21 the telegram which is Exhibit 3.

22 Did you advise General Bennett?

23 Mr. Phillips. I did not. If it was done -- and I
24 presume it was -- I was not involved, and wouldn't have been
25 involved. And they would not have sent me over to see General

TOP SECRET

1 Bennett, who was the head of DIA at the time. So, I don't
2 know that it was.

3 Mr. Schwarz. Which is the tab at which the reply
4 from Wimert is located? Is it K?

5 Mr. Treverton. K, yes.

6 Mr. Schwarz. Would you mark as the next exhibit, Exhibit
7 8, another cable to headquarters, "Eyes only for Lieutenant
8 General Bennett ~~from Colonel Wimert~~".

9 (The document referred to was
10 marked Phillips Exhibit No. 8
11 for identification.)
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TOP SECRET

131

1 Mr. Schwarz. Can you tell from the face of it, are we
2 correct that this is a document that was sent from the CIA
3 station in Santiago to CIA headquarters purporting to come
4 from ~~Colonel Wilmert~~ and purporting to be directed to Lieutenant
5 General Bennett?

6 Mr. Phillips. That is true.

7 Mr. Schwarz. In the ordinary course to whom would
8 such a cable go? And the second question, who would have the
9 responsibility of passing information on to General Bennett?

10 Mr. Phillips. In the ordinary course of events this cable
11 would have come to me where I was working in the sense of an
12 info copy and this, that and the other.

13 The action on this cable would have certainly have gone
14 at least to Mr. Broe, and possibly higher, because it says,
15 this is his message to the head of another government
16 service. And so it would have gone to that level.

17 Mr. Schwarz. And in the ordinary course it would have
18 come to you first, and then it would have been passed on to
19 either Mr. Broe or someone higher to take action?

20 Mr. Phillips. For action -- not always. Sometimes a
21 cable will come in and there will be more than one copy.
22 And right away the action copy will go to the other fellow, and
23 then you get the information copy, and so forth.

24 Mr. Schwarz. Can you tell from the face of this cable
25 whether there would have been more than one copy?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

132

1 Mr. Phillips. There is no indicator to say who it went
2 to.

3 Mr. Schwarz. Does the "eyes only" have any significance
4 to you in the third line?

5 Mr. Phillips. Only in the sense that what Colonel
6 ~~Wimert~~ was saying was, this may go over to the Defense Depart-
7 ment, but not through regular channels, and not to anyone else
8 other than General Bennett.

9 Mr. Schwarz. Did it go to General Bennett?

10 Mr. Phillips. I do not know.

11 Mr. Schwarz. And did you pass it to someone?

12 Mr. Phillips. If it did not go it would have been
13 highly unusual for a message to come in from overseas saying,
14 give this to the head of another Agency, and for it not to
15 be delivered it would have been extremely unusual.

16 Mr. Schwarz. What would be the normal form of its
17 delivery? Would there be a cover note put on it?

18 Mr. Phillips. It would have probably been folded
19 into an envelope and delivered by hand. Because if it is
20 really an "eyes only" message of such import, if it goes
21 through a communications channel, it means that they are going
22 to be operators of machinery to see it, and so forth. If
23 an American Ambassador overseas wants to get a very sensitive
24 message up he has the option of sending it to us and saying,
25 will you please hand carry this over to the Secretary of State?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

137

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

No DoD objection to public disclosure
pursuant to P.L. 102-526, except for
§ 112/94

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Schwarz. This message states:
2 "Please deliver the following message, ('destroy imme-
3 diately') to Colonel Wilmert eyes only from Lieutenant General
4 Bennett." And the message was: "For your information suspen-
5 sion temporarily imposed on MAP and FMS has been rescinded".
6 What are MAP and FMS.
7 Mr. Phillips. Military Assistance of some kind or
8 another, Military Arms Procurement, or something like that.
9 Mr. Schwarz. Military Assistance Program?
10 Mr. Phillips. That is probably it.
11 Mr. Schwarz. And what is FMS?
12 Mr. Inderfurther. Foreign Military Sales.
13 Mr. Schwarz. Continuing: "This action does not,
14 repeat not, imply change in our estimated situation. On the
15 contrary, it is intended to place us in a posture in which
16 we can formally cut off assistance if Allende elected and
17 situation develops as we anticipate. Request up date
18 of situation".
19 Now, Bennett's job at that time was what?
20 Mr. Phillips. I believe he was the Chief of DIA.
21 Mr. Schwarz. Defense Intelligence Agency?
22 Mr. Phillips. Yes.
23 Mr. Schwarz. Is the Defense Intelligence Agency
24 responsible for decisions to military assistance programs?
25 Mr. Phillips. My opinion is that they are not.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

138

1 Mr. Schwarz. And they don't really have anything to
2 do with that, do they?

3 Mr. Phillips. I would gather from this message that
4 it is simply an explanation from -- it says General Bennett
5 to Wilmert, to explain something. As a part of Track I, and the
6 whole business, all of these different options were being
7 looked at and people were saying, let's don't help them with
8 military things because it looks like Allende is going to get
9 in. And the decision was made, well, let's go ahead
10 and do it. And this was apparently sort of a request for
11 Colonel Wilmert to give him some rationale behind it when he
12 was down there running away trying to foment the coup,
13 saying, why is the U.S. Government still helping this govern-
14 ment?

15 I am speculating. But this was another one of those
16 messages quote unquote which went in our channels.

17 Mr. Schwarz. Who gave you this message?

18 Mr. Phillips. I do not remember.

19 Mr. Schwarz. You have no recollection whatsoever?

20 Mr. Phillips. Sir, it is five years ago, and there are
21 a lot of messages, and as I said, these were the ones that
22 I was the least interested in in the sense of being involved,
23 and so forth, and I just can't remember who handed it to me
24 or how it arrived.

25 Mr. Schwarz. Would you expect that there should be
another document which contains the purported message from

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

140

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Fenn. Yes.

2 Mr. Schwarz. Talking about telephones, incidentally,
3 was there a secure telephone between Washington and Santiago
4 which was used for messages, or did you use the cable always?

5 Mr. Phillips. We never used the telephone, unless it is
6 a personal message like your aunt died and you have to get on
7 the next plane for the funeral. Otherwise you use those
8 absolutely marvelous communications facilities that get it
9 down there --a flash cable will get there in 20 minutes.

10 In the recess I have been thinking about this, and I re-
11 alize that I have not been very helpful in what obviously is
12 a contradictory situation here. As I read it, either General
13 Bennett does not recall this, or else there was some sort of
14 endeavor within CIA headquarters to use his name. Is that
15 the approach we are making to this?

16 Mr. Schwarz. I don't think we are trying any approach.
17 He has denied any knowledge of this.

18 Senator Schweiker. We are just confused.

19 Mr. Phillips. Maybe I am confused, too.

20 Senator Schweiker. Can you enlighten us at all?

21 Mr. PHillips. If it were someone in CIA headquarters
22 saying, we are going to use Bennett's name without his
23 knowledge because it has a lot of clout, I don't understand
24 why. Because the messages went from Philpott to Colonel Wimer.
25 And Colonel Wimer said, I am with you 100 percent, and from

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

141

1 that moment began cooperating with the Chief of Station. I don't
2 recall any instance where there was any indication of hesitancy
3 on his part about doing what he was doing.

4 And I certainly can't comment about General Bennett's
5 side, not having been involved with him.

6 From the CIA side I suppose it is conceivable that some-
7 one is using that business that I referred to in dispatches,
8 General Bennett says, when they are really talking about
9 what a subordinate of General Bennett says, and they figure
10 he is acting for them, or something like that. I guess that
11 is conceivable.

12 But I would find it very unusual to see some sort of
13 little plot hatched here, because there was no need to.

14 Mr. Schwarz. What you are saying is that you can't see
15 a motive?

16 Mr. Phillips. Precisely.

17 I can't see the motive for fooling Colonel Wimer, be-
18 cause Colonel Wimer had already started working when he re-
19 ceived the instructions from the number two man in his Agency,
20 which is indeed pretty high up.

21 So, I am afraid the reasons that I am not being helpful
22 is that I, too, am confused.

23 Mr. Schwarz. I just received a note indicating that
24 Mr. Bolten of the Agency has told us that both of the October
25 14 cables were authored by you. I don't know if that adds

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

143

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Senator Schweiker. Let me ask counsel this.
2 Can we establish that Philpott did communicate --
3 Mr. Schwarz. Philpott is going to testify on Tuesday.
4 We have talked to him. He accepts at least one message. There
5 are two which purport to be signed by him, and he is not
6 sure if he accepted two.
7 Senator Schweiker. So, he has accepted one message?
8 Mr. Schwarz. He accepted one message, yes.
9 Mr. Phillips. You wanted to ask about a meeting.
10 Mr. Schwarz. It was a final meeting you had with Helms?
11 Mr. Phillips. Yes.
12 The death of General Schneider had occurred. And while,
13 as we said previously, things had fallen into place according
14 to "plan", an egregious plan, it was absolutely my conviction
15 that those orders that I had been predicting, which were very,
16 very slim, were now completely unacceptable, one reason being
17 that the inauguration was going to be in 48 hours -- not the
18 inauguration, but the confirmation, and so forth.
19 And so as I recall, there was a meeting of quite a few
20 of us, probably myself and Mr. Pionzio and Mr. Bröe and Mr.
21 Karamessines, and maybe Mr. Flannery, -- no, I guess not, but
22 I do remember that meeting going up there and saying, if there
23 ever was a chance, it is now finished, and somebody has got to
24 say that it is finished. And so that is what I meant by that
25 meeting.

TOP SECRET

1 what happens, it is all right with me. There was an inlet inside
2 of Domingo which was dubbed, the Pasino, the swimming pool,
3 and that is where Trujillo threw his friends and enemies
4 to the sharks. And he used to hang people on meat hooks in
5 refrigerated vaults. And it sometimes took them several days
6 to die.

7 Miss Culbreth. You had served ~~as Chief of Station~~ in
8 the Dominican Republic prior to the time that you served in
9 this position on the Track II party?

10 Mr. Phillips. I have, after the assassination of
11 Trujillo. But as a student of Latin America, I was very much
12 aware of this. So, there is another aspect of involvement.
13 U.S. policy has been to retreat from Trujillo. We cut off our
14 arms aid, we brought our Ambassador out of there. So, while
15 those plans were going on we weren't "dealing with a friendly
16 nation", relations were very bad.

17 Miss Culbreth. Let me ask you this. After General
18 Schneider's death was his death characterized by you or by
19 your colleagues in the CIA as having been an assassination?

20 Mr. Phillips. It certainly was not. And I do not do
21 that now.

22 Miss Culbreth. You would not this day characterize
23 his death as having been an assassination?

24 Mr. Phillips. No. I think it was an accident that
25 occurred because he turned out to be such a brave man that

TOP SECRET

151

1 when he looked up and he saw a bunch of people standing
2 around his car he drew his gun.

3 Miss Culbreth. Thank you.

4 I would like to direct your attention to this cable
5 that you were questioned about. It is the one that is dated
6 September 27, 1970. And Mr. Schwarz read from that cable in
7 talking with you earlier. This was the cable which said "A
8 false flag base of staff would be established in Santiago by
9 10 October".

10 And you were questioned about this part: "These
11 officers will perform the delicate chores with great flap
12 potential which cannot be done by station personnel or any
13 Chilean. An example: We have a [] who can pose as
14 [] intelligence officer. If he approached, funded and
15 ran a Chilean general, any flap would be a []

16 In the second paragraph which was not read earlier,
17 I would like to read this and then put a question to you:

18 "Headquarters believes this false flag base, manned by
19 officers who have repeatedly proved their ability to operate
20 and recruit under false colors, will give station great
21 flexibility in handling delicate and fast-moving situations
22 securely".

23 To me this second paragraph indicates that these false
24 flag officers were people that had experience in this very
25 kind of intelligence operations, is that correct?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

152

1 Mr. Phillips. Every one of them was known to me per-
2 sonally and had worked for me.

3 Miss Culbreth. And had been in this kind of capacity
4 as a false flag officer?

5 Mr. Phillips. Yes.

6 Miss Culbreth. So, this was not some unique and unusual,
7 devious approach or mechanism that was being employed in this
8 instance?

9 Mr. Phillips. The purpose of that explanation, es-
10 pecially the second paragraph that you read, was -- the imme-
11 diate reaction, as I recall, from the station when they first
12 heard that we were given their assignment, was, come on,
13 that flap potential is great, it is not going to work, what
14 are you talking about, this, that and the other.

15 As a matter of fact, as I recall, **Henry Hecksher, the**
16 **Chief of Station,** was terribly upset, because he is a sort of
17 an old pro, and he wanted to get into position, in other words,
18 to plan for the future, and all of a sudden this new thing
19 came in. The purpose of that cable was to explain to the
20 station that we had been given this job to do and that we
21 at headquarters saw that as the safest way for them to
22 accomplish the job that they had been given with the least
23 possibility of embarrassing the American Ambassador, and that
24 sort of thing.

25 Senator Schweiker. You said earlier, Mr. Phillips, I think

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

156

1 in contact, but we didn't see it as such a sure thing; even
2 though this says, probably by General Viaux and so forth.

3 Miss Culbreth. Was there any question in your mind
4 as principal operating officer here in the states that there
5 was a delineation or a demarcation of function between the
6 Viaux group and the Valenzuela group, or did you regard them
7 as one big group down there accomplishing this, or did you really
8 regard them as separate groups?

9 Mr. Phillips. I very definitely regarded them as two
10 separate groups, always with the caveat that in Latin America
11 some one always has a cousin who talks to someone else.
12 But I very definitely regarded them as two separate groups,
13 and when General Viaux was called off earlier in October, I
14 thought that General Viaux was out of the thing, and I thought
15 that without support that he wasn't going to try anything.

16 And then we had the other group which seemed to be
17 more serious people, and with more capabilities. And I
18 very definitely regarded them as two separate groups.

19 Miss Culbreth. Let me ask just a few questions that
20 might sort of help us a little bit in our housekeeping opera-
21 tions when we get to the point of trying to tie everything up
22 on these.

23 With regard to the information that was given to you,
24 the specific instructions on these cables that were sent to the
25 Chief of Station and were directed to Colonel Wimer, who can

TOP SECRET

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

TOP SECRET

159

1

Senator Hart of Michigan. Anyone else?

1

Mr. Johnston. Mr. Phillips, just one last question. How large was the room you were operating out of? You described it as a small windowless room.

2

3

4

Mr. Phillips. About from here to your wall back there -- no, not that big.

5

6

Mr. Johnston. This was the entire control area for the Task Force?

7

8

Mr. Phillips. That is right.

9

Mr. Johnston. How many people were on the Task Force besides you?

10

11

Mr. Phillips. Of course we had two shifts of secretaries, there was someone there all night, and that sort of thing. There were two or three secretaries, myself, Mr. Poinzio, six, eight, something like that.

12

13

14

15

Mr. Johnston. And that included the secretaries?

16

Mr. Phillips. Yes.

17

Mr. Johnston. How many action officers were in the room?

18

Mr. Phillips. It was pretty much Mr. Poinzio and myself, as the real action officers. And then there were two junior officers that were assisting at the time. I think I have given Mr. O'Flaherty their names previously. So that was four. And there was someone from the CIA shop, the Counterintelligence ship, whose name I can't remember today. So that is five officers that I recall. And I think that there was a 6th that

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

TOP SECRET